



## ALASKA TEAMSTER-EMPLOYER SERVICE TRAINING TRUST

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QA-18024

ANPRM-FHWA Docket MC 93-12  
Rm 4232, HCC-10  
Office of Chief Counsel FHWA  
400 7th. St. S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20590

93 AUG 13 1993  
LEADS/REGS. DIV.  
ALL : 01

Dear Committee:

FHWA-97-2199-54

This letter is being written in support of National Standardized Truck Driver Training. Our experience has taught us the trucking industry is a constantly changing and demanding field, which requires rigorous training. The implementation of new standards and governing regulations have made it necessary to standardize training. Average citizens through-out America realize the potential destructive power big rigs possess and want to be sure the operators of these sizable vehicles are competent.

The Federal Motor Carrier Code of Regulations require specialized training in the handling of hazardous materials, hours of service ( logbooks ), oversize and overweight loads just to mention a few, with that in mind, its is easy to understand why Entry Level Truck Driver Training must be made mandatory nationwide. We fully support Mandatory Entry Level Truck Driver Training prior to the issuance of a Commercial Drivers License.

Trucking organizations throughout America are rapidly adopting the PTDIA ( Professional Truck Driver Institute of America ) core curriculum of 147.5 hours of instruction as a minimum training standard. The Alaska Teamster Training Center is one of those organizations that has recognized the importance of providing its members with this training, making them second to none in this ever changing world of Professional Truck Driving.

It is our firm belief, proven to us by the **fifteen** hundred men and women we've had the pleasure of training in the last 18 months, our governing leaders must take a positive step towards legislation that will enhance safety on our highways and reinforce the basic right of the public to safe travel on any state or federal road system.

Sincerely;

Joe Crum  
Lead Driving Instructor  
Alaska Teamsters Training Center

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